Please insert the following new Claims:

34. A biopsy instrument, comprising:

an outer hollow cannula having a distal end portion which is capable of piercing and cutting tissue, said biopsy instrument including a first spring adapted to move said outer hollow cannula distally upon actuation by a user; and

an inner member having a distal portion which is biased to expand radially at its distal end, said inner member being capable of both cutting and severing tissue, said biopsy instrument including a second spring adapted to move said inner member distally upon actuation by a user, wherein said inner member is slidable relative to said outer hollow cannula such that said inner member may be extended distally with respect to said outer cannula by said second spring, and said inner member distal portion expands radially to capture a tissue sample as said inner member moves distally; and

wherein said outer hollow cannula is slideable relative to said inner member such that, when said outer hollow cannula is extended distally, said distal end portion of said inner member is forced by said outer hollow cannula to close about and sever the tissue sample, thereby containing the tissue sample within said inner member.

35. A biopsy instrument as recited in Claim 34, wherein said distal portion of said inner member comprises an alligator tip having a pair of hinged jaws.

36. A biopsy instrument as recited in Claim 34, wherein said distal portion of said inner member comprises a plurality of hooked extractors.

37. A method of extracting a tissue sample from a desired site, using an instrument which comprises an outer hollow cannula having a distal end, and an inner grabber member having a distal extractor portion, capable of cutting and severing tissue, said method comprising:

inserting said instrument into a patient so that the distal end of said outer hollow cannula is at said desired site;

actuating a first spring mechanism to move said distal end portion distally, relative to said outer hollow cannula, so that said distal end portion expands in a radial direction and engages a tissue sample to be extracted;